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Attorneys for Plaza Las Americas, Inc.

# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:	Chapter 11
SEARS HOLDING CORPORATION, et al. <sup>1</sup>	Case No. 18-23538 (RDD)
Debtors.	Jointly Administered

# SUPPLEMENTAL OBJECTION OF PLAZA LAS AMERICAS, INC. TO DEBTORS' STATED CURE AMOUNTS

Landlord, Plaza las Americas, Inc. ("Landlord"), through its counsel, hereby files this supplemental objection ("Supplemental Objection") to the cure amounts set forth in the Notice of Cure Costs and Potential Assumption and Assignment of Executory

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are as follows: Sears Holdings Corporation (0798); Kmart Holding Corporation (3116); Kmart Operations LLC (6546); Sears Operations LLC (4331); Sears, Roebuck and Co. (0680); ServiceLive Inc. (6774); SHC Licensed Business LLC (3718); A&E Factory Service, LLC (6695); A&E Home Delivery, LLC (0205); A&E Lawn & Garden, LLC (5028); A&E Signature Service, LLC (0204); FBA Holdings Inc. (6537); Innovel Solutions, Inc. (7180); Kmart Corporation (9500); MaxServ, Inc. (7626); Private Brands, Ltd. (4022); Sears Development Co. (6028); Sears Holdings Management Corporation (2148); Sears Home & Business Franchises, Inc. (6742); Sears Home Improvement Products, Inc. (8591); Sears Insurance Services, L.L.C. (7182); Sears Procurement Services, Inc. (2859); Sears Protection Company (1250); Sears Protection Company (PR) Inc. (4861); Sears Roebuck Acceptance Corp. (0535); Sears, Roebuck de Puerto Rico, Inc. (3626); SYW Relay LLC (1870); Wally Labs LLC (None); SHC Promotions LLC (9626); Big Beaver of Florida Development, LLC (None); California Builder Appliances, Inc. (6327); Florida Builder Appliances, Inc. (9133); KBL Holding Inc. (1295); KLC, Inc. (0839); Kmart of Michigan, Inc. (1696); Kmart of Washington LLC (8898); Kmart Stores of Illinois LLC (8897); Kmart Stores of Texas LLC (8915); MyGofer LLC (5531); Sears Brands Business Unit Corporation (4658); Sears Holdings Publishing Company, LLC. (5554); Sears Protection Company (Florida), L.L.C. (4239); SHC Desert Springs, LLC (None); SOE, Inc. (9616); StarWest, LLC (5379); STI Merchandising, Inc. (0188); Troy Coolidge No. 13, LLC (None); BlueLight.com, Inc. (7034); Sears Brands, L.L.C. (4664); Sears Buying Services, Inc. (6533); Kmart.com LLC (9022); Sears Brands Management Corporation (5365); and SRe oration (4816).

Contracts and Unexpired Leases in Connection With Global Sale Transaction [ECF No. 1731] ("Cure Notice"); Supplemental Notice of Cure Costs and Potential Assumption and Assignment of Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases in Connection With Global Sale Transaction [ECF No. 1774] ("Supplemental Cure Notice"); and Notice of Assumption and Assignment of Additional Designatable Leases [ECF No. 3298] ("Cure Designation Notice"). In support of this Supplemental Objection, Landlord respectfully states:

- 1. On October 15, 2018 ("<u>Petition Date</u>"), the above captioned debtors and debtors-in-possession ("<u>Debtors</u>") filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code ("<u>Bankruptcy Code</u>").
- 2. The Debtors continue to operate their businesses and manage their properties as debtors-in-possession pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 1107(a) and 1108.
- 3. Landlord is a party to two unexpired leases of nonresidential real property with the Debtors located at the shopping center commonly known as Plaza las Americas, located at Hato Rey, Puerto Rico ("Leases") identified on the Cure Notice, Supplemental Cure Notice, and Cure Designation Notice as Store No. 1905 and Store No. 7842. True and correct copies of the Leases for each store are attached as Exhibits "A" and "B", respectively, to the Initial Cure Objection (defined below).
- 4. On January 18, 2019, Debtors filed their *Notice of Successful Bidder and Sale Hearing* ("Successful Bid") [ECF No. 1730] naming the Buyer the winning bidder for the Global Assets (as defined in the Bidding Procedures Order) ("Proposed Global Asset Sale").
  - 5. On January 18, 2019, Debtors filed the Cure Notice [ECF No. 1731].

- 6. On January 23, 2019, Debtors filed their Supplemental Cure Notice [ECF No. 1774].
- 7. The Debtors' Cure Notice and Supplemental Cure Notice incorrectly listed the Debtors' proposed cure amounts for Store No. 1905 as \$71,926.00 and for Store No. 7842 as \$98,491.70.
- 8. On January 25, 2019, Landlord timely and properly filed its *Limited Objection to the Cure Notice and Supplemental Cure Notice* ("Initial Cure Objection") [ECF No. 1961] asserting among other things, the appropriate cure amounts as of the date of that filing.
- 9. On April 19, 2019, Debtors filed their Cure Designation Notice [ECF No. 3298] incorrectly listing the Debtors' proposed cure amounts as \$0 for Store No. 1905 and \$15,330.33 for Store No. 7842.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL OBJECTION**

- 10. Landlord objects to the Debtors' proposed cure amounts as set forth in the Cure Notice, Supplemental Cure Notice, and Cure Designation Notice because the correct cure amounts due and owing under the Leases for Store No. 1905 is \$263,800.07 and for Store No. 7842 is \$564,018.74, as set forth in the Statements attached to this Supplemental Objection as Exhibits "1" and "2", respectively ("Correct Cure Amounts"). These amounts represent, *inter alia*, pre-petition and/or post-petition unpaid balances currently due under the Leases.
- 11. Landlord further objects to the Debtors' proposed cure amounts in that they do not take into consideration the passage of time between the filing of the Cure

Designation Notice, this Supplemental Objection, and the effective date of any assumption of the Leases by the Debtors. Accordingly, any order that is entered establishing cure amounts with respect to the Leases must require that the Debtors (i) comply with all obligations under the Leases pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(3) pending the actual assumption of the Leases; and (ii) cure any additional defaults that may occur under the Leases between the date of this Supplemental Objection and the effective date of any assumption by the Debtors. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 365(b)(1).

- 12. Landlord further objects to the Debtors' proposed cure amounts because they do not include amounts that may become due under the Leases after the Leases are assumed, but which may relate to the pre-assumption period (i.e., real estate tax and common area maintenance reconciliations). Any order establishing the cure amount in connection with the assumption of the Leases must provide for the payment of all charges due and/or accrued in the ordinary course under the terms of the Leases, notwithstanding the Debtors' proposed cure amounts.
- 13. Landlord further objects in that the Leases provide that the Debtors must indemnify and hold Landlord harmless with respect to any existing claims that may not become known until after the assumption of the Leases (i.e., personal injury claims, damage to the leased premises or shopping center caused by the Debtors or their agents). Any order approving the assumption of the Leases must therefore provide that the assumption is pursuant to the terms of the Leases, and that the Debtors will continue to be responsible for all such indemnification obligations, regardless of when they arose.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Landlord reserves the right to include additional charges that accrue under the Leases that are not identified on Exhibits "1" and "2" up through the date of any order approving an assumption or assumption and assignment of the Leases.

14. Finally, under the Leases, Landlord are entitled to attorneys' fees and costs. These amounts are currently unliquidated because as of the date hereof Landlord cannot be certain whether the Leases will be assumed and when such assumption will occur. The Correct Cure Amounts should therefore also include all of Landlords' attorneys' fees and costs to which it is entitled under the Leases.

## **ARGUMENT**

- 15. Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code obligates the Debtor to promptly cure all existing defaults before assuming any unexpired lease of non-residential real property. See 11 U.S.C. § 365(b)(1)(A) and (B); Agri Star Meat & Poultry, LLC v. Nevel Props. Corp. (In re Nevel Props. Corp.), 765 F.3d 846, 849 (8th Cir. 2014) (stating that a lease cannot be assumed unless a cure has been effected); In re Alipat, Inc., 36 B.R. 274, 276 (Bankr. E.D. Mo. 1984) ("[I]f there has been a default in an executory contract or unexpired lease, the trustee may not assume such contract or lease unless he or she cures the default, compensates the other party, and provides adequate assurance of future performance..."). The Debtors are therefore required to promptly cure all existing defaults by paying Landlord the Correct Cure Amounts immediately upon the assumption of the Leases.
- 16. Prior to the Leases actually being assumed, all other amounts that will become due and owing under the Lease, including attorneys' fees also need to be cured to the extent such amounts remain unpaid.

#### **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS AND JOINDER**

17. Landlord reserves its right to assert any and all other claims against the Debtors arising out of or related to the Leases, including without limitation, claims for (a)

the costs of any repair that may be necessary after inspection of the interior of the leased

premises; (b) post-petition rent and other charges accruing under the Leases that Landlord

has yet to discover and not yet identified on Exhibits "1" and "2"; (c) pecuniary losses

suffered by Landlords as a result of any defaults by Debtors under the Leases, including,

but not limited to, attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a direct result of any further

defaults; and (d) non-monetary defaults of which Landlord does not have knowledge at

this time. Landlord reserves all rights to object to any proposed assignee of the Leases on

any basis, to the extent the Debtors seek to assign the Leases, as well as any other rights it

now has or may have under applicable law with respect to this matter including but not

limited to any rights under Section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code. To the extent not

inconsistent herewith, Landlord hereby joins in the objections raised by other landlords.

**CONCLUSION** 

18. Landlord respectively submits that the Correct Cure Amounts should be

allowed (subject to adjustment by the Landlord) in the amount set forth on the attached,

and the Court should grant such other relief that the Court finds just and proper.

WHEREFORE, Landlord respectfully requests the Court sustain this

Supplemental Objection to the Debtors' Stated Cure Amounts, and for such other relief as

the Court may deem proper and just.

Dated: May 2, 2019.

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on May 2, 2019, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing to be electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will automatically send email notifications to all parties and counsel of record, served electronically by email, and/or via first class mail, postage prepaid upon all of those identified on the Master Service List as of May 2, 2019, including but not limited to the below listed parties, and in accordance with: (i) this Court's Amended Order Implementing Certain Notice and Case Management Procedures entered on November 1, 2018 [ECF No. 405]; and (ii) the Supplemental Notice of Assumption and Assignment [ECF No. 1774] and the service requirements established thereby.

#### VIA EMAIL

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## **VIA FIRST CLASS, OVERNIGHT DELIVERY SERVICE**

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